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Reply Under 37 CFR 1.116 – Expedited Procedure  
Group Art Unit 1797

MAY 30 2008

REMARKS

This Amendment and Reply is submitted by the undersigned attorney in a representative capacity under 37 CFR 1.34. The Attorney's registration number and address are provided below.

Claims 8-13 were examined. Claims 10-12 are rejected and claims 8, 9 and 13 are allowed. By virtue of the instant Amendment and Reply, claims 10 - 12 are canceled. Claims 1-7 were previously canceled. No claims are added herein. Accordingly, claims 8, 9 and 13 are pending and allowed. Applicants submit no new matter is added herein.

Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner alleges the claim contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

While Applicants respectfully disagree with the instant rejection, in order to expedite prosecution of the instant application and gain issuance of allowed claims 8, 9 and 13, Applicants herein cancel claim 12 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicants submit the instant rejection is moot and respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent 11-090488 to Kobata et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. However, in order to expedite prosecution and gain issuance of allowed claims 8, 9 and 13,

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Applicants herein cancel claims 10 and 11 without prejudice. Since claims 10 and 11 are canceled herein, Applicants submit the instant rejection is rendered moot and respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

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Allowed Claims

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for indicating claims 8, 9 and 13 are allowed.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

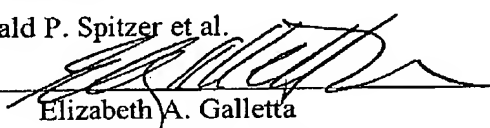
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no fees are due with the submission of this Amendment and Reply. If any charges are incurred with respect to this Amendment and Reply, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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